

Financial Business.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND II—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE—

Rs. 20,00,160.

Mr. Joseph John (*Ag. Electrical Engineer to Government*):

Sir, I move a grant of Rs. 20,00,160 under Demand II—Electricity and Telephone.

A sum of Rs. 20,00,000 is required for the P. H. E. Scheme—Civil works and a sum of Rs. 160 is required for the appointment of an additional clerk for the Electrical Division Office, Trivandrum. The need for such a high grant under the former, about 7 months after the presentation of the Budget for 1120 needs an explanation. It was in 1940 that we started the Pallivasal Hydro-electric scheme with an effective capacity of 9,000 K. W. and an installed capacity of 13,500 K. W. Three machines of 4,500 K. W. each—two to run and one as a stand by were installed. At the same time the Electrical Engineer to Government had prepared a forecast of the probable load developments, and the probable revenue that could be derived and the capital investments that we would require for a period of ten years from 1940 to 1950. Based on that, we should have had in the year 1120 a maximum demand of 22,000 K. W., that is, about 20,000 h. p. This could easily have been obtained if only we had got the plant and machinery from England. At present our maximum demand is only 9,000 K. W. and although we have sufficient load to connect up, we have no plant capacity. Based on this report of the Electrical Engineer, the Government had placed an order as early as 1941 for a generating set of 7,500 K. W. and a pipe-line for supplying water to this machine. On account of the international situation the order was not executed, and the Government of Britain refused to sanction the manufacture of any plant which did not help the prosecution of the War. The application for priority was turned down. But on account of the insistent demands which this Government made on the Government of India the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India paid a visit to this area about 2 years ago and was fully satisfied of the need for power in Travancore. On his recommendation, the Government of Britain sanctioned the manufacture of the fourth generating set viz., a machine of 7,500 K. W. This machine has already been manufactured and is awaiting shipment to Travancore. The pipe-line for this machine has already arrived and at least 60% of it is already at site at Pallivasal. In the meantime on account of our further need for power, this Government sent representations through the Government of India and the Government of

Britain sanctioned the manufacture of the fifth and sixth generating sets each of 7,500 K. W. and along with that a pipe-line to supply water to these machines. This sanction was received only after the budget was sanctioned by the Legislature, and hence the need for a supplementary grant. Out of this Rs. 20,00,000 Rs. 11 lakhs is for the purchase of the fourth pipe-line. The value of the machine has already been provided for in the Electrical portion of the budget.

This House is aware that a dispute was going on between this Government and the Government of Madras over the use of Periyar waters. It was recently decided in our favour. After the decision the Government of Madras and the Government of Travancore have constituted a joint investigation for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of hydro-electric development at Periyar. The report of this committee has got to be submitted in about six months' time and an amount of Rs. 3 lakhs is required for the investigation. Unless we carry out this investigation in detail and get all the facts and figures, the Government of Madras is likely to be in an advantageous position when the question is discussed. The balance of six lakhs is required for the work that is going on in Pallivasal, speeded up due to the quick delivery of cement and other materials.

A sum of Rs. 160 is required for the appointment of an additional clerk in the Trivandrum Electric Supply Office to look after the consumers' section. The Government have approved the appointment of one clerk for every 500 consumers. Due to the scarcity of kerosene, and on account of the release of a large amount of wiring materials, the work in Trivandrum has considerably increased and an additional clerk is required in connection with the work in the consumer's section.

Mr. G. Ravi Varma : May I know whether experts will be brought down from outside for the investigation of the scheme?

Mr. P. Joseph John : The investigation is being carried out with the staff of the P. W. D.

The question that a sum of Rs. 20,00,160 be granted under Demand II—Electricity and Telephone was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—

Rs. 1,47,000.

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkitakrishnan : Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 1,47,000 under Demand III—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage.

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